

Draft USCA Challenge for Natural and Working LandsJuly 20, 2018

The natural systems upon which we depend are essential to life and critical for reducing the impacts of climate change on our communities. They are also under threat from human activity and climate change. To protect the communities, economies, and ecosystems that depend on them, we will manage natural and working lands, including forests, farms, rangelands, and wetlands, to be resilient carbon sinks.

The U.S. Climate Alliance recognizes that healthy landscapes sequester carbon and provide significant and cost-effective opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, the U.S. Climate Alliance commits to:

- inventory land-based carbon flux and identify best practices to reduce GHG emissions and increase resilient carbon sequestration;
- identify and advance programs, policies, and support to reduce GHG emissions and pursue resilient carbon sequestration;
- establish goals to maintain natural and working lands as a net sink of carbon and protect and increase carbon storage capacity, balancing near- and long-term sequestration goals, as appropriate; and
- adopt plans by 2020 for achieving these commitments.

The U.S. Climate Alliance will work in the coming months to identify and adopt best practices and policy pathways that increase long-term carbon storage in forests and reduce losses from catastrophic wildfire and land-use change; protect existing natural and working lands from conversion; support healthy soils on farms and ranches; restore coastal wetlands and sub-tidal habitats and protect shorelines against sea level rise; restore ecosystems and open space for watershed protection and recreation; and grow the urban forest and other greenspace to improve health and livability.

The Alliance invites all national and subnational jurisdictions, tribes, businesses and other actors to bring commitments to reduce GHG emissions and protect and enhance carbon sequestration across all natural and working lands to the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, California this September.